

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of printing from a computing device, said method comprising:

receiving a print task originating from an application running on a computing device, said receiving occurring at a print processor, which resides on said computing device and is an integral component in an operating system of said computing device;

receiving a selection of selecting a preferred printing device to print said a print task;

checking the status of at least one printing devices, comprising said preferred printing device, ~~in communication with said computing device~~ via a direct communication between said at least one printing device and said print processor;

sending said print task to said preferred printing device if it is available; and

sending said print task to another available printing device if said preferred printing device is not available.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sending comprises transmitting spool data and EMF data to a device driver which converts said spool data and said EMF data to printer ready data which is sent via a spooler to a printing device.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said sending comprises transmitting printer ready data from said print processor residing on said computing device through a printing device port to a printing device.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising rechecking the status of said at least one printing devices in communication with said computing device after said print task has been sent to at least one of said preferred printing devices, and said available printing device ~~and said busy printing device~~.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising resending said print task to ~~another~~ available printing device when said printing device to which said print task has been sent fails.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising resending said print task to another busy printing device when said printing device to which said print task has been sent fails.

7. (currently amended) A method of printing error recovery, said method comprising:

~~sending a print task to a print processor;~~

receiving a print task originating from an application running on a

computing device, said receiving occurring at a print processor,

which resides on said computing device and is an integral

component in an operating system of said computing device;

sending said print task from said print processor residing on said

computing device to a first printing device;

checking the status of said printing device after said print task has been

sent to said first printing device;

aborting said sending said print task to a first printing device; and

sending said print task from said print processor residing on said

computing device to a second printing device if said first printing

device fails to print said print task.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said second printing device is an available device.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said second printing device is a busy device.

10. (currently amended) A method for increasing the reliability of a printing system, said method comprising:

sending a said print task to a print processor residing on a computing device from which said print task originated, wherein said print processor is an integral part of an operating system of said computing device;

checking the status of printing devices in said system from said print

processor residing on said computing device;

sending said print task from said print processor residing on said computing device to a first printing device;

rechecking the status of said first printing device, with said print processor, during printing of said print task;

resending said print task from said print processor to a second printing device when said first printing device fails to print said print task.

11. (currently amended) A method for increasing the reliability of a cluster printing system, said method comprising:

sending a print task to a print processor residing on a computing device on which said print task originates;

checking the status of printing devices in ~~said system~~ communication with said computing device from said print processor residing on said computing device;

splitting said print task into a plurality of modified print tasks with said print processor residing on said computing device;  
sending said modified print tasks from said print processor to a first group of printing devices;  
rechecking the status of printing devices within said first group of printing devices after said modified print tasks have been sent to said first group of printing devices;  
resending any of said modified print tasks to a printing device other than the printing device to which it was previously sent when ~~said any of said modified print tasks fails to print~~ said rechecking indicates that a printing device in said first group will not complete said any of said modified print tasks.

12. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing functions within a print processor, which resides on a computing device as an integral operating system component, said instructions comprising the acts of:

receiving a print task from an application running on said computing device;

detecting the status of a first printing device prior to sending a said print task to said first printing device;

rechecking the status of said first printing device after sending a said print  
task to said printing device; and  
sending said print task to a second printing device when said first printing  
device fails to print said print task.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method for cluster printing, said method  
comprising:

sending a print task to a print processor residing on a computing device from  
which said print task originated, said print processor being an  
integral operating system component of said computing device;  
checking the status of printing devices in ~~said system~~ communication with  
said computing device from said print processor;  
splitting said print task into a first quantity of modified print tasks with said  
print;  
sending said modified print tasks from said print processor to a first group of  
printing devices;  
rechecking the status of printing devices within said first group of printing  
devices after said modified print tasks have been sent to said first  
group of printing devices;

reconfiguring said print task by splitting said print task into a second quantity of remodified print tasks and sending said remodified print tasks to print devices other than printing devices which fail to print when a printing device in said first group fails to print.

16. (new) A printing apparatus comprising:

a print task receiver for receiving a print task from a local application running on said apparatus; and  
a printing device status detector for determining the status of a printing device prior to sending a print task to said printing device; and for determining whether said print device has successfully printed said print task.

17. (new) An apparatus as described in claim 16 further comprising a print task modifier for splitting said print task into a plurality of modified print tasks.